The National Field Research Centre for Environmental Conservation
About innovative Environmental Research

الوشق
Lynx

Sultanate of Oman
Diwan of Royal Court

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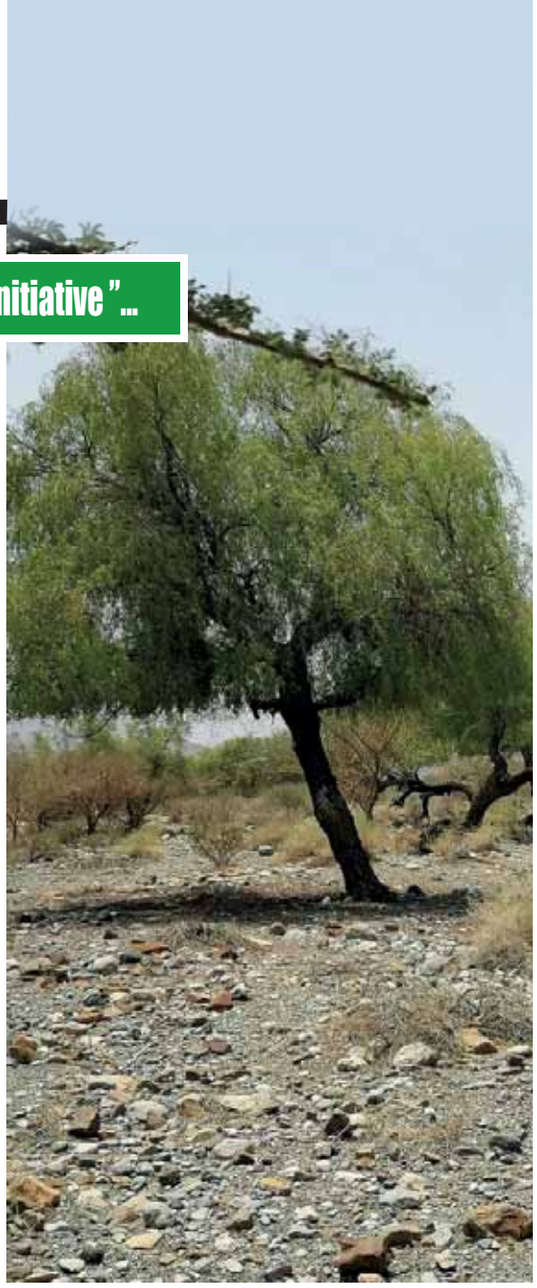
Issue 58

Used Lead - acid Batteries ... A Obsession of Future Danger

الوشق Lynx

As Part of the "10 Million Trees Initiative"...

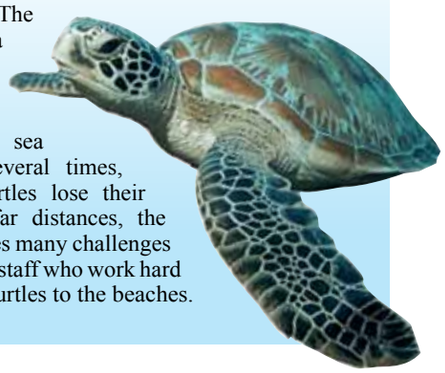
Inauguration of the First Site for Planting Wild Trees



The Environment Authority has recently inaugurated the first wild trees planting site at Mina Al Fahal area as part of the national initiative to plant 10 million wild trees, which was launched on January 8 with the support of the Petroleum Development Oman. The inauguration of the planting site comes within a series of other campaigns that will be implemented in the various governorates of the Sultanate during the coming period, next to the work done in the previous period for expanding the existing nurseries and establishing new nurseries as well as supplying seeds from the recently established seed bank. On the other hand, working groups were formed in cooperation with the local communities to collect seeds of various types of wild trees in the Sultanate. Since the announcement of the initiative, the Agency has endeavored to produce healthy seedlings that are suitable for the environment that can withstand difficult climatic conditions in the appropriate places for them. The focus has been directed to the well-known wild trees in the Sultanate, including Al Ghaf, Al Sammar (Acacia), Al Sidr, Al Shua, Al Teeq, Al Talh, Al Mitan, Cactus, Al Sarh, Al Alalan (Juniper) and others, according to the environment and climate suitable for planting such wild trees.

A Number of Turtles Rescued at Ras Al Jinz

Muhammad bin Nasser Al-Amri, the official in charge of the beach department and Ahmed Tiaib Al-Harbi, a beach staff at Ras Al-Jinz Turtle Reserve in Sur Wilayat, have succeeded in rescuing a number of turtles during the past few days. Some of those turtles were seen stuck between rocks and others buried under dirt. The beach personnel are busy, patrolling the beach in daily bases, endeavoring to save the turtles and return them back to their natural habitats. The Arabian Sea is currently witnessing high levels of waves and sea rampage at several times, that causes turtles lose their way and go far distances, the matter that poses many challenges to the reserve›s staff who work hard to return such turtles to the beaches.



point of view

Not My Garbage, but it is My Country

Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Al Balushy
Editor-in-Chief

«Not My Garbage, but it is My Country». How beautiful this phrase is. It states the love for the nation, the love for its environment, and the love for its cleanliness. It is not my rubbish, and I did not throw it on the beaches, nor throw it in wadies and tourist places, but still the love of the homeland and the love of its environment is what drove me to collect this garbage and put it in their designated places, so that the place will be clean for everyone who visits it any day. This phrase «Not My Garbage, but it is My Country» is written by one of the Omani youth as a caption for a picture of himself while he was collecting garbage from one of the seashore of the Sultanate, posing the most wonderful example that should be emulated .

On another occasion, I saw an Omani family on a beach in the Governorate of Muscat, led by the father busy carrying garbage bags. I saw the father and his young sons collecting garbage from the beach, with an eye-catching eagerness without fatigue. The beach was full of families and young people who came to enjoy the beach and exercise. Unlike all the people, this family collected a lot of garbage bags and put them in the containers designated for such purpose. I approached this family and spoke to the father, who said to me with confidence, «The country has a right on us, and what we are doing now is to give back to this dear country. We perform such voluntary activity in order to educate our children and instill in their hearts the importance of keeping Oman clean». After that, I and my family participated with this family in collecting garbage, and a group of young men also joined us in a beautiful panoramic scene.

At the present time, and due to the health and social conditions that the Sultanate and the countries of the world are going through, the movement of domestic tourism activity in the Sultanate has increased, and with it increased the quantities of waste dumped on the beaches, wadies and tourist places. Such waste is thrown by us, while we are spending beautiful times with family and friends, but we leave a place filled with garbage behind us. We leave behind a view that offends the homeland and the aesthetics and splendor of the place.Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we should have a self-awareness of such issue. We must warn our families and friends that such behaver is not desirable and inappropriate.We must instill in the people around us the importance of preserving the environment and must clean the place after having fun and enjoyed the beauty of the place.

A final whisper; Shouldn›t we all be protectors of environment, defenders of it, and inculcate that in our children? Shouldn't the love of the homeland be the first motivation for us to protect the Sultanate›s environment?

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26 Species of Them have Been Registered in the Sultanate So Far...

A New Species of Bats was discovered in Dhofar Governorate

Since its establishment in September 2017, the Office for Conservation of the Environment at the Diwan of the Royal Court continues to carry out, on yearly bases, a specialized environmental scientific study on micro-organisms such as bats and rodents in several different locations in the governorates of the Sultanate. This interest in bats research comes due to the scarcity of data and information available on them in the region of West Asia and in the Sultanate in particular, as well, interest in bats research is due to the increase of human activities and expiation of settlement, in addition to the presence of 143 species of mammals that incubate viruses that can transmit animal diseases, and the bat is one of these types that may transmitted viruses to humans. During the past three years, these studies resulted in the registration of a new species of bats in Dhofar, bringing the total number of bat species that are currently registered in the Sultanate to 26 species so far, in addition to recording important new sites for exploration operations for other species which reach about 1,400 species around the world, according to the information of the experts at the office.

Bats are useful creatures that are misunderstood and their presence is a good indicator of the health of natural habitats

143 species of mammals incubate viruses that can transmit disease

Many wild plants and agricultural crops depend on bats to pollinate their flowers and spread their seeds

The first field survey of small mammals in Dhofar was in 1977, when several species of bats were confirmed registered

Regarding the importance of conducting this study, Zahran Ahmed AlAbdulsalam, Assistant Director of the Environmental Affairs Department at the Office for Conservation of the Environment and Supervisor of the Research Team in the Study of Bats, said that, conducting such research, cooperating with international organizations specialized in this field and publishing scientific papers on such research, all that enhances the knowledge about and understanding of these species. Consequently, it helps in preserving these organisms in their environment, knowing their places of spread, identifying the varieties and what viruses each of them carries that may affect human health. On the other hand, such research identifies their environmental benefits. Moreover, it is important to collect more information about them, as he said.

Facts about Bats

Bats are distinguished by a number of facts explained by Zahran Al Abdulsalam, who said that, Bats are considered a mammal that has not received sufficient research and studies in the Sultanate, as more than 1,400 species of them have been recorded worldwide, while only about 26 species have been recorded in the Sultanate so far. Bats have many benefits, most notably the dependence of many wild plants and agricultural crops on them to pollinate their flowers, and some plants depend on them to spread their seeds. Also, one of bats benefits is that they feed on insects, including those harmful to crops. Bats are a good indicator of the health of natural habitats. Bats have a variety of characteristics, including that most of them have weak hearing and vision senses, and use echo to locate different locations and objects, something like the sensor (sonar). They use this characteristic to fly and search for insects in the dark, as they can know the distance between them and something when the echo returns to them. Some types of bats have different frequencies from each other. Scientists have used a special detector to detect the types of suchbats' frequencies and calls. The Latest Surveys Conducted in the Sultanate The Office for Conservation of the Environment includes many national experiences and competencies to carry out scientific studies on the Omani environment components of fungal life and living organisms. So, the topic of bat surveys in the Sultanate comes within the tasks assigned to the office to study it scientifically in cooperation with the competent government agencies such as the Ministries of Health, Agriculture& Fisheries and Water Resources, as well as universities, the Department of Plant and Animal Resources, in cooperation with international scientific research institutions.

Surveys in Dhofar

The Assistant Director of the Environmental Affairs Department at the Office for Conservation of the Environment, confirmed that the latest environmental studies on bats in the Sultanate began in September 2017 in several different locations in the Governorate of Dhofar, after the office carried out its first steps by forming the first specialized team of Omani researchers in the field of bat research in cooperation with the Harrison Institute In the United Kingdom. "We can recall the year 1977, when the first field survey of microorganisms was launched in Dhofar, carried out by "the Environmental Preservation Office" (under its previous name at the time), where several types of bats were confirmed' added Zahran AlAbdulsalam. On the implementing the modern study mechanism,with its various stages, in Dhofar, Zahran AlAbdulsalam said that, all bats that were caught were identified, measured and photographed through hidden nets and traps. In most cases tissue samples were taken (for DNA analysis) before releasing them back to the wild. The surveys have accomplished several results, the most important of which is the discovery of a new species of bats in the Dhofar Governorate and the registration of new important sites for other species. The results of this field surveys have been published in the local newspapers. In order to increase community awareness of some small mammal species such as bats this survey also attracted some international bodies such as the Eco Health Alliance, which the Sultanate joined later as a partner, represented bythe Office for Conservation of the Environment for conducting a field and genetic laboratory study.

"The Office for Conservation of the Environment - within the framework of exchanging experiences with international scientific institutions participating in bat research - participated in the annual seminar of the International Bats Organization,which was held in Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during the period from 9 - 11 December 2019, during which the Omani participants from the wildlife specialists in the Office,presented a detailed presentation on the study of bats in the Sultanate" he added. It is worth noting that the Office for Conservation of the Environment at the Diwan of the Royal Court, continues a series of scientific, environmental and laboratory field studies on bats, for this year (2020). Other surveys were conducted in the Dhofar Governorate, where samples of bats were collected in order to analyze the viruses found in them. The necessary scientific analyzes will be conducting on them in especial laboratories. The Office devotes its tasks and missins in order to reach the most important goals of this scientific study, which the study of bats, their various environment, as well as the associated coronaviruses and bats risks and benefits. All that in cooperation with the competent government agencies, at the end, the Office will suggest the best ways for government agencies to deal with these organisms in accordance with the best global environmental safety standards.

Types of Bats Registered in the Sultanate :

The Egyptian Fruit Bat

The Egyptian Fruit Bat (Rousettus aegyptiacus) is the most common and is the largest bat in Oman. These bats emerge from their sites such as caves and ancient buildings, right after sunset, using a very sharp sense of smell to search for fruit. That may be wild fruits such as figs or other fruits including mango, papaya, coconut, and more.

Horseshoe Bats

Dhofar bats are of different types, as each type has a distinct appearance. For example, horseshoe bats can be recognized by their sharp noses that resemble the shape of a horseshoe.There are no less than three types of horseshoe bats in the Sultanate, including the Geoffroy›s horse bar (Rhinolophus clivosus).

Mouse-tailed bat

The mouse-tailed bats are another distinct species as they have particularly long tails in Dhofar. This family includes the Egyptian mouse-tailed bats (cyctops Rhinopoma).

Pipistrellus Bat

The Pipistrellusis the smallest bat seen in Dhofar, weighing about 5 grams and the size of a human thumb. It was particularly interesting to pick up Dhofarian pipistrellus (Pipistrellus dhofarensis), which is found only in Dhofar and the Al-hawf Mountains in the borders with Yemen.

Used Lead-acid Batteries ...

Obsession of Future Danger

Lead acid batteries are a type of hazardous waste,as it contains lead that may cause many health and environmental damage if it is handled or processed in a wrong way.With the increase in vehicles numbers in the Sultanate annualy (Total number of vehicles in the Sultanate reached at the end of May 2020, one million, 530 thousand and 671 vehicles according to the National Center for Statistics and Information) Such number of cars produces a lot of used lead-acid batteries waste, which reach more than 14,000 tons per year, and thus pose dangers to humans and the environment when disposed of in improper methods. The used lead-acid batteries are defined as the batteries that have consumed their life span as they often result from the periodic consumption and maintenance of vehicles, as well as from some other industrial activities. Batteries need to be replaced continuously for reasons related to the efficient performance of vehicles or equipment in general. According to a study conducted by the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (Bee›ah), the average battery life is estimated at about one year for small vehicles and one and a half years for heavy vehicles.

Battery Components

Lead batteries or lead accumulator, consist of positive and negative lead plates separated by porous sheets of plastic, microfibers, or resin. The panels consisting of lead grids coated with a «positive» lead metallic paste and a «negative» lead oxide paste, submerged in sulfuric acid H_2SO_4, «locally called tizab», along with a plastic or ebonite casing.The average amount of lead inside one battery ranges between 2 and 13 kg.

Batteries Dangers

Batteries contain lead, which has a cumulative effect, as it affects humans and the environment. According to the World Health Organization, lead causes a severe impact on the human body organs, including the nervous and digestive systems, the heart, blood vessels, kidneys and bone marrow systems. On the other hand, it has severe impacts on the environment, including pollution of soil, water and air with lead. It negatively affects the organisms and the ecological balance. The sulfuric acid is one of the components of acid rain that leads to damage of agricultural crops and causes water pollution, so its impact extends to human health.

In the Sultanate, the used batteries are not thrown directly after their expiration date.Rather, there is a great demand for them so that they are recycled for economic return. The problem lies in some wrong practices such as some unqualified labours buying these batteries, disassembling them in primitive ways and dispose the existing acid Inside them by pouring it directly onto the ground in order to extract lead from it.This in turn, affects the soil, the plant and the groundwater on the long term.

In general, there are damages caused by improper recycling of lead acid batteries, as lead can be emitted into the environment surrounding through all recycling stages. Dismantling the battery leads to the emission of lead particles into the environment and the formation of pollutant spray or dust.When the lead is extracted through melting or burning the components of it, dangerous lead fumes are formed and other toxic substances such as arsenic, sulfur dioxide, barium and antinmonmay be emitted.In addition to that,when burning the components of a battery made of rubber and plastic, toxic gases are emitted, as well as toxic substances spill from batteries as a result of traditional storage in the absence of the lowest health, safety and environmental controls.

Global Studies and Reports

Estimates published by the World Health Organization indicate that in 2015 the number of deaths due to exposure to lead reached 495,550 cases, while a study conducted by the United Nations Children›s Fund «UNICEF» and the «Pure

Risks of Toxic Substances in Lead-acid Batteries

- Affect human health
- Lead to soil pollution and crop failure
- Lead to acid rain
- Affect living organisms
- Affect water (surface and underground)
- Emit toxic gases that pollute the air
- Lead to an imbalance in the ecological balance

■ 14,000 tons is the amount of lead acid batteries used in the Sultanate annually

■ The average amount of lead inside one battery ranges between 2 and 13 kg

■ Storing, transporting and recycling in a safe way and community awareness of its dangers are effective solutions to limit its harms

Earth» environmental group showed that about 800 million children have a level of 5 micrograms of lead per each tenth of liter or higher levels in the blood stream., which are high enough levels to damage the growth of brains, nervous systems, and vital organs such as the heart and lungs.

Getting rid of batteries

be›ah Company stated that the disposal of lead acid batteries is carried out in the Sultanate through the participation of small and medium enterprises and scrap dealers in the scope of collection under the supervision of the company, according to collection contracts and at specific geographical areas. That is in addition to the investments of the private sector to treat lead acid batteries and produce lead metal. be›ah will work to develop other facilities once the flow of used batteries is controlled and the appropriate quantities are available.

Recycling

The principle of re-extracting lead from expired batteries in the proper way is by breaking down the batteries with their entire contents (including acid) and then pulling the various elements separately (plastic, acid, lead and lead sulfate). The operating principle is based on removing sulfur to prevent all toxic emissions from the treatment process. The desulfurization process has many benefits, including reducing energy consumption, increasing the yield of lead from treatment, and reducing sulfur emissions to their lowest levels.This way, greatly reduces environmental damage, in addition to extending the life of melting furnaces. By reducing the accumulations of produced slag (impurities that float on the surface of the molten metal) by about 90%, the certified processing facilities will work to enhance the added value of the national economy by providing raw materials of lead to local industries, if they are available as a first option instead of exporting abroad.

The Sultanate›s Efforts

On December 7, 1994, the Sultanate joined the Basel International Convention according to the Royal Decree No. 119 / 1994, which focuses on reducing the production of hazardous waste in terms of quantity and risk, and disposing of it in the closest possible location to the producer by environmentally methods and reducing the movement of its transport across borders. This is to prevent the hazards of hazardous wastes resulting from mismanagement and to control the reception and transportation of hazardous wastes and inventory them, as well as to avoid illegal disposal of hazardous waste by the countries which produce dangerous wastes.

On the other hand, the Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be›ah) has recently signed agreements with a number of government and private agencies focusing on the proper disposal and recycling of used lead acid batteries by treating them in the approved treatment center in the Sultanate with the best international specifications and standards. be›ah will collect lead acid batteries from these establishments, through the authorized carriers, and then transfer them to the treatment site approved by the company, to be recycled and create secondary materials. be›ah will provide special battery disposal containers that are distinguished by the presence of insulating layers to prevent the leakage of materials harmful to human health and the environment.

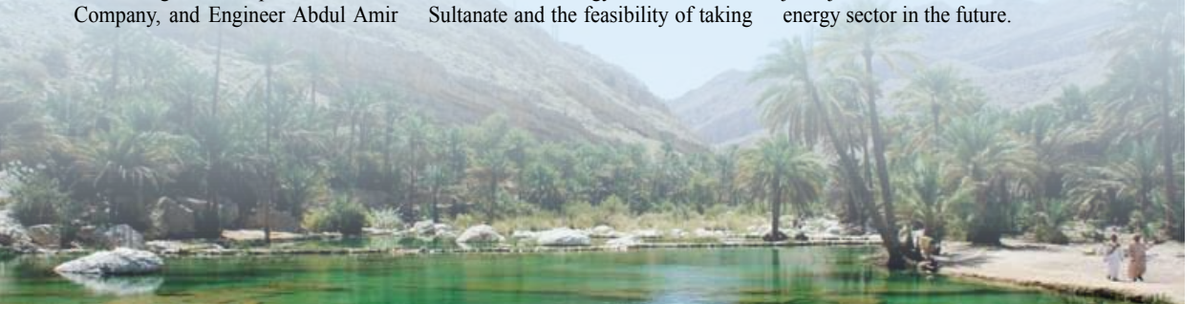
Avoidance and Limitation of Damages

There are some measures that can be taken to avoid or reduce the harmful effect of used lead acid batteries, such as storing them in a safe manner in designated facilities, implementing and equipping recycling facilities with engineering controls to reduce lead emissions, in addition to installing exhaust systems equipped with air filtration technology and treatment systems, processing systems for liquid waste, training workers in recycling facilities on optimal handling and equipping them with protective devices, providing the necessary facilities for washing and changing clothes with clean ones, setting up a program for monitoring workers› exposure to toxic substances, and keeping battery recycling sites away from residential areas.

On the other hand, the enacting legislation and laws that regulate the work of institutions concerned with batteries and increasing penalties for violators will contribute to avoiding or limiting batteries damages, in addition to spreading community awareness about the dangers of lead acid batteries and the dangers of improper recycling, as well as providing special containers for disposal to avoid any leak of dangerous substances to the environment.

be›ah Provides Technical Support for the PDO Award for Renewable Energy

The Oman Environmental Services Holding Company «be›ah» signed an agreement with the Petroleum Development Oman to provide technical support to the PDO Renewable Energy Award for public and private school students, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. This award aims to spread awareness of the economic and environmental importance of renewable energy (biofuels) and to support the creative and innovative skills of students. The agreement was signed by Muhammad Sulaiman AlHarthy, Executive Vice President for Strategic Development at be›ah Company, and Engineer Abdul Amir Abdul-Hussein Al-Ajmi, Executive Director of External Affairs and Value-Added at the PDO. The signing was attended by a number of concerned employees and officials from both sides. This agreement comes in line with be›ah's vision of preserving the beautiful environment of our country for future generations and in the interest of achieving our strategy in the field of waste recycling and applying the concept of circular economy, in addition to PDO's constant keenness to enhance its cooperation and partnership with the local community and its conviction in the abundance of renewable energy sources In the Sultanate and the feasibility of taking advantage of that. PDO launched the award in cooperation with the Ministry of Education represented by the Innovation and Science Olympiad Department in early 2017, be›ah will provide technical support for the award in its fourth edition, which focuses on the field of energy extraction from biofuels. This award aims to create student innovations in the field of energy management and renewable energy of all kinds, and it also aims to spread awareness of the importance of renewable energy and its areas of use in life, as well as to guide school students who wish to join jobs related to the renewable energy sector in the future.



UAE

Emphasizing Importance of Transition towards a Green Economy

His Excellency, Dr.Abdullah Belhaif AlNuaimi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, stressed the importance of dealing with environmental protection, the achieving of sustainability of its natural resources, and accelerating the pace of transformation towards a green economy as a basic pillar of plans and directions for recovery from the negative economic and social impacts that the new Corona virus pandemic has created on all societies.This came during His Excellency›s participation in the first ministerial meeting of West Asian Countries on the Corona pandemic and the environment, which was organized by the UNEP Regional Office in West Asia, and aimed at highlighting the effects of the pandemic on the region and recommending specific and sustainable measures and policies that take into account environmental protection.

Bahrain

Installing of Solar Energy Trees for Environment Preservation

Diyar Al Muharraq», one of the largest real estate development companies in Bahrain, has installed a number of solar energy trees in the city of Diyar Al Muharraq, as part of its efforts to build modern solutions to achieve sustainable development goals in the Kingdom. Diyar Al Muharraq has started installing many solar energy trees distributed throughout the city, some of which have a capacity of 3 kilowatts and others with a capacity of 2 kilowatts.

Saudi Arabia

14 Persons Caught for Catching 50 Birds in Riyadh

The Special Forces for Environmental Security, while performing their duties in the Imam Abdulaziz bin Muhammad and King Abdulaziz Royal Reserves in Riyadh, seized (14) persons violating the hunting regulations, and in possession of (10) air rifles (2,146 rounds), and a number of tools used in hunting, in addition to 50 birds hunted birds. The spokes man for the forces, Major / Raid Al-Maliki, stated that the seizures were recorded and the violators were referred to the competent authorities to apply the penalties imposed against them according to the law of hunting wild animals and birds and its executive regulations.

Kuwait

A Meeting for Environmental Emergency Plans

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Eng. Samira Al-Kandari, Deputy Director General for Environmental Control Affairs, in the presence of representatives from the Kuwait Oil Company, the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation, the Petrochemical Industry Company, the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and the Integrated Petrochemical Industry Company. The meeting discussed the environmental emergency plans for the companies affiliated to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation in the presence of the sector departments. The companies explained the emergency plans and the mechanisms used to deal with environmental accidents and responded to the inquiries of the relevant departments of the Environment Public Authority.

Qatar

Planting (200) Wild Trees Seedlings in (Rawdht Al-Bambar)

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment, represented by the Department of Protection and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Public Parks Department, the Agricultural Research Department and the Al-Sheehaniya Municipality, performed a campaign to plant (200) wild tree seedlings (Bambar, Samar, Salam, and Awsaj) in (Rawdht Al-Bambar), within the framework of a project aims to rehabilitate the Qatari mainland, which was transferred Its subordination from the Agricultural Affairs Department to the Protection and Wildlife Department.

An Environmental Expert: "The Japanese Oil Tanker Split in Half on a Coral Reef off Mauritius

Cape Town - ONA: The Environmental expert Sunil Korwarkasingh said that the Japanese fuel oil tanker that caused an environmental disaster when it ran aground on a coral reef off Mauritius was «split in half». «Security has been strengthened on the coastline. It is a complete emergency,» said the independent environmental consultant Corwarkasingh in a statement to the Deutsche News Agency (dpa) after seeing pictures of the ship taken by a drone. The tanker, which ran aground off the island in the Indian Ocean on July 25, leaked nearly 1,000 tons of fuel oil into the pristine coastal waters of the popular honeymooning resort which is an area with many rare plants and animals.

Amazon Fires in Brazil Poisoning the Air

Bogota - ONA: Fires resulted by the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, caused toxic to the air, exposing millions of people to harmful levels of air pollution. The report, issued by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, the Institute for Health Policy Studies, and Human Rights Watch showed that fires and deforestation activities in the Amazon have increased by 85% since 2019. The report stated that about 2,200 persons were transferred to hospitals due to respiratory diseases attributed to fires related to deforestation, noting that people in the Amazon region deliberately set fires after cutting trees, to make land available for farming or grazing livestock. The report confirmed that 3 million people in 90 regions of the Amazon were exposed in August 2019 to harmful levels of air pollution that exceeded the barrier recommended by the World Health Organization.

A New Study Warns: Herbivores are More Vulnerable to Extinction

In a new scientific study conducted on more than 24,500 species of animals, an international team of researchers revealed that herbivores are more at risk of extinction than carnivores in birds, mammals and reptiles. The study was published in Science Advances on August 5, and a statement from Utah State University lists the most important findings of the study. In addition to Utah State University scientists, an international team from the universities of California - Santa Barbara, University of Hawaii, and Imperial College London participated in the study.

Environmental Vocabulary

The Pearly Planet

Eng. Khalifa Badawi Al Higgi
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The Omani environment is rich of a huge number of diverse trees, each species characterized by specific features of size, shape, leaves and height and another features that are imprinted in the mind and then analyzed by the brain directly when its image is reflected through the eye and then the brain gives result of name and type of tree. The brain may confuse with some common information of the species, making judgments contrary to reality, except those who have experience and knowledge that help them in accurate characterization and absolute judgment. The rare of trees may leave no doubt for the mind to recognizes them at first glance. These kind of tress possessing features of attraction, like a pearly planet, pulling the eyes to it, directing the visitors towards it, taking the mind and entering the heart without barrier.

The Omani environment is a fertile womb for the birth of many types of trees and plants, whether local, adaptive or invasive. Those who see this giant and great tree that adapted to the Omani environment are amazed and pour the most beautiful masterpieces of art and literature. It found a proper environment and settled down its heavy load penetrating its great roots in depth, and expands its huge trunk through vacuum that cannot be limited except its decision to survive or die. This trunk, which has a diameter of up to 15 meters, is variable depending on the rainfall periods related positively. It can be used to estimate of the age of the tree as it does not have an annual ring in the trunk comparing to the rest of the trees, for example; it is estimated to be 600 years old when the diameter is 7 m and 2000 years when it reaches 10 m. It may appear short-rise (22 m) due to its horizontal expansion, and may appear inverted when its leaves recede completely. This is rarely condition in tropical trees, possibly due to reduction of transpiration for water conservation purpose. It is not exaggeration to see rooms with a capacity of 40 people in the cavity of its trunk, but rather a large passageway for car. Elephants find their demand for water from the trunk bark where they grow again unlike the rest of the trees.

In its native land, the citizen considers it the tree of life because of its many benefits, some of which have been associated with legends, so the citizen seeks to cultivate it wherever they travel. Its broad leaves, as well as bean-sized seeds that hidden inside an oval-shaped box called (Al Manqoor), all have many medical and social benefits and uses. The Wilayat of Dhalkot has one tree, which is considered a landmark and attraction, while there are other specific numbers in Dhofar Province, and few in Northern Oman. It has many names, the Qanqales is the common name of this tree in Sudan, known globally as the Baobab and also the Tabaladi (Adansonia) tree. It requires more protection and cultivation due to natural, human and slow-growing threats. In the place where it exists, it imposes itself in the eyes and hearts of those who see it with its virginal love, as if it were a pearl planet.

FACE MASK DISPOSAL

Marwa Al Mukhaini

Hi Friends, Do you know the correct steps to dispose your mask ?

1

Hold both of the ear loops

2

Fold the mask

3

Put in a plastic bag

4

Discard in closed bin

5

Wash hands